

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 MMO-01 L-03 ACDA-07

IGA-02 /046 W

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P 201515Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 212

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USCINCO PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 3659

ATTENTION: DSAA/ISA (SA)

E.O. 11652 XGDS

W

TAGS: MASS XX EC

SUBJ: MAAG REQUIREMENT STDY

REF: A) STATE 119079 B) QUITO 3075

1. SUMMARY: MLO IN IMPORTANT TO THE MISSION BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES ACCURED THEREFROM, AND THE MISSION WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO SEE MLO CONTINUE MORE OR LESS IN ITS PRESENT FORM BEYOND FY. 77. SHOULD CONGRESSIONAL DETERMINATIONS MAKE THIS IMPOSSIBLE, THIS MESSAGE SETS FORTH WAYS MLO MIGHT BE REDUCED TO A COMPLEMENT OF THREE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO STATE 119079 AND AMPLIFY QUITO'S 3075.

3. NO MAAG OR MILGRP EXISTS IN ECUADOR NOR DO THE GOE OR THIS WANT ONE. THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS THE US MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE (USMLO). THE MLO WAS ESTABLISHED IN JULY 1974, OPERATES AS A SECTION OF THE US EMBASSY SEPARATE FROM THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE, AND IS LOCATED IN THE CHANCERY. OFFICER MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ACCREDITED BY
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THIS MISSION AND BY THE GOE AS ATTACHES FOR LIQUSON.

THIS ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ENABLES A MINIMUM NUMBER OF PERSONNEL TO ADMINISTER PROPERLY SECURITY ASSISTANCE (FMEI AND IMET) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESENT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED BY THE MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE MANUAL (MASM) AND OTHER DOD DIRECTIVES

4. WE CONSIDER THE PRESENCE OF THE MLO IN ECUADOR AFTER FY 77 HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES THAT ACCRUE FROM MLO'S INTERFACE WITH AND INFLUENCE ON HIGH LEVELS OF THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY A REDUCTION IN THE MLO TO THREE OFFICERS WOULD BE REGARDED NEGATIVELY BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND BE CONSIDERED A DIMINUTION IN THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS.

5. AS THIS MISSION HAS STATED REPEATEDLY, THE GOOD RELATIONS WE NOW ENJOY WITH THE GOE REST IMPORTANTLY UPON OUR MILITARY-TO-MILITARY PROGRAMS AND THE INFLUENCE DERIVED THEREFROM. THE MLO AND THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WERE ESTABLISHED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES, INTERRUPTED FROM JAN 1971 TO FEB 1974 AND AGAIN FROM JAN TO JUL 1975 BECAUSE OF THE US/ECUADOREAN DISPUTE OVER FISHING RIGHTS. THAT THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY BECOME DISPOSED TO SEEK WAYS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND DISLUSS WAYS TO SETTLE THE FISHERIES DISPUTE IS DUE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO THE VALUE ATTACHED TO THE SEUCIRYT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE MLO. DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE US AND THE GOE HAVE HELD INFORMAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING FISHING IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC REGION, WHICH, OF COURSE, INCLUDES WATERS OFF THE COAST OF ECUADOR. THESE TALKS ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE ONGOING MULTILATERAL LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME WHICH COULD IN ANY WAY NULLIFY THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED. THE WITHDRAWAL OF DRASTIC REDUCTION OF THE MLO WOULD RAISE AN UNNECESSARY RISK TO PROGRESS IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS

6. THE MLO'S PRESENT STAFFING IS SEVEN MILITARY PERSONNEL
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(FIVE OFFICERS AND TWO ENLISTED), BUT IT DID NOT REACH THIS STRENGTH UNTIL MARCH 1976. THE CHIEF OF USMLO, AND ARMY COLONEL, HEADS THE SECTION, WITH THREE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES (USN, USAF, USA) REPORTING TO HIM AND CONDUCTING DAY-TO-DAY LIAISON WITH HOST COUNTRY COUNTERPARTS AT THE GENERAL COMMANDER/CHIEF OF STAFF/GENERAL STAFF DEPARTMENT HEAD LEVEL ON TRAINING (IMET) AND FMS (EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING) MATTERS. NO SERVICE SECTIONS

EXIST. AN OFFICER SERVES AS LOGISTICS OFFICER FOR ALL SERVICES. ONE ENLISTED MAN SERVES AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE NCO AND THE OTHER AS ASSISTANT FOR TRAINING. NO MAP MATERIAL IS PROVIDED TO ECUADOR.

7. IN ORDER TO REDUCE MLO TO THREE, AS CONTEMPLATED BY CONGRESS, THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED UPON THE MLO (MSAP AND JSOP PLANNING, APO AND MILITARY AIRLIFT MANAGEMENT, SOUTHCOM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS, ETC.) BY HIGHER AUTHORITY (DOD, SERVICES, CINCSO, ETC.) WOULD HAVE TO BE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED OR ASSUMED BY OTHER ENTITIES. SINCE THE MLO HAS BEEN STRUCTURED TO PROVIDE A LIAISON ELEMENT TO FULFILL THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM, THE PRESENT STRUCTURE SHOULD BE RETAINED UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF FY 77, BUT NO AUGMENTATION IS REQUIRED. NO NEW OR PLANNED WEAPONS SYSTEMS; REVISED MILITARY FORCE STRUCTURE; NOR NEW MILITARY OPERATIONAL, SUPPORT, OR TRAINING CONCEPTS ARE CURRENTLY VISUALIZED FOR THE FUTURE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EXPANSION OF THE MLO.

8. THIS EMBASSY BELIEVES IT HAS THE IDEAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION FOR MEETING OUR NEEDS IN ADMINISTERING CURRENT MILITARY PROGRAMS AND IN MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT. COMMENTS MADE BY LGEN MCALIFFE, USCINCSO, TO JCS SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RECENT VISIT TO ECUADOR REITERATE HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USMLO IN ADVANCING OUR INTERESTS IN ECUADOR AND POINT OUT THAT IT IS THE SMALLEST OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE GROUPS IN SOUTH AMERICA. THIS MISSION WAS THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON DOD EFFORTS THROUGH CINCSO TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL IN LATIN AMERICA, AND THE AMBASSADOR CONCURRED IN CINCSO'S APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM OF REDUCTION BY TAILORING THE
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OTHER MAAGS TO RESEMBLE THE SUMLO CONCEPT AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODEL. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT NOTHING BE DONE AT THIS TIME TO ALTER THE CURRENT FORM AND FUNCTIONS OF OUR MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE.

9. UNLESS CONDITIONS CHANGE GREATLY, THE MISSION WILL PROBABLY DESIRE THE CONTINUANCE OF MLO IN ITS PRESENT FORM AFTER FY. 77. IF THE MLO PRESENCE AFTER FY 77 MUST BE DISCONTINUED, HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE A FEW OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES. ONE OPTION WOULD BE DISESTABLISHMENT WITHOUT REPLACEMENT. THIS OPTION IS REJECTED AS INIMICAL TO USG INTERESTS IN ECUADOR FOR THE REASONS PREVIOUSLY STATED. SHOULD THE MISSION BE REQUIRED TO REDUCE TO A THREE-MAN MLO IT WOULD WANT TO RETAIN THE THREE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES FOR INTERFACE WITH THE ECUADOREAN ARMED

FORCES AT THE PRESENT LEVEL. THE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS OF ADMINISTRATION, LOGISTICS, AND TRAINING WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSUMED BY OTHER ENTITIES.

10. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS PERSONNEL, MEDICAL, AND PURELY MILITARY REQUIREMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED BY CINCSO OR PARENT SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS. ALL LOGISTIC ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED BY THE ECUADOREAN SERVICES THROUGH THEIR WASHINGTON MILITARY, NAVAL, AND AIR MISSIONS OR ATTACHES OR DIRECTLY WITH US SERVICES.

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MOREOVER, THIS WOULD SERIOUSLY REDUCE MISSION'S AND THE AMBASSADOR'S CONTROL. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THIS AREA IS THE GOAL BEING EMPHASIZED, BUT THE DELUGE OF NEW FMS CASES (INCLUDING SUPPLY SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS) SINCE RESUMPTION OF US/ECUADOREAN MILITARY RELATIONS IN 1974 HAVE NECESSITATED THE PRESENT STAFFING OF MLO. THEREFORE, RETENTION OF THE LOGISTICS OFFICER POSITION UNTIL THE END OF FY 78 IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY AND LOGICAL PHASING-OUT OF THE LOGISTICS FUNCTIONS OF MLO. THE DETERMINATION OF ECUADOREAN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS COULD BE RETAINED BY THE THREE SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES, BUT ELIMINATION OF THE TRAINING NCO POSITION WOULD REQUIRE ALL PROGRAMMING OF IMET AND FMS TRAINING TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE US SERVICES CONCERNED AT THE WASHINGTON OR CINCSO LEVEL. THE ADMINISTRATIVE NCO POSITION COULD ONLY BE

ABOLISHED IF DOD REQUIREMENTS WERE ELIMINATED BY THE END OF FY 77 AS WELL AS THE POSITION.

11. THE BILLET OF CHIEF, USMLO IS PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY A COLONEL AND IS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN USG-GOE RELATIONS, SINCE HE ACTS DIRECTLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR IN INTERFACING WITH THE ECUADOREAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND JOINT STAFF. BY THE END OF FY 77 THIS POSITION MIGHT BE ASSUMED BY THE SENIOR OF THE THREE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES, WHO PRESUMABLY WOULD BE AT THE COLONEL OR LT. COLONEL LEVEL, PROVIDING THE PRESENT INITIATION OF NEW FMS CASES BY THE SECRET

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JOINT STAFF LEVELS EASES OFF AND THE FMS CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS BECOME A MATTER OF ROUTINE INSTEAD OF A MAJOR BUREAUCRATIC EXERCISE (SINCE IT IS A NEW ASPECT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN ECUADOR). THE MILITARY PROGRAM DISADVANTAGE OF MOVING TO A THREE-MAN MLO IS THAT AFTER NEARLY FOUR YEARS OF SUSPENDED USG/GOE MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS, MLO HAS NOT HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE ITSELF UNNECESSARY BY BUILDING SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES IN THE AREAS OF LOGISTICS AND TRAINING.

12. THE RETENTION OF THE MLO IN ITS PRESENT FORM UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF FY 77 IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES NOW ENJOYED AND TO PROVIDE FOR A TRANSITION PERIOD LEADING TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY ON THE PART OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMEDFORCES. THE DELETION OF THE POSITIONS OF CHIEF (AS A SEPARATE BILLET), ADMINISTRATIVE NCO, AND TRAINING ASSISTANT MIGHT BE EFFECTED BY THE END OF FY 77 IF CURRENT REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED WERE LIFTED, BUT THE POSITION OF LOGISTICS OFFICER SHOULD BE RETAINED AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF FY 78.

13. IN CONCLUSION, UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, THE MISSION IS LIKELY TO PREFER THE CONTINUANCE OF MLO IN MORE OR LESS ITS PRESENT FORM BEYOND THE END OF FY 77, PRIMARILY FOR POLITICAL REASONS. SHOULD CONGRESSIONAL ACTION MAKE THIS IMPOSSIBLE, WE WOULD WANT REDUCTION TO A THREE-MAN SECTION TO TAKE PLACE AS OUTLINED ABOVE. HEMENWAY

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